

URGENT ACTION

TRADE UNIONISTS HELD IN HARSH CONDITIONS

Basile Mahan Gahé, a trade unionist from Côte d'Ivoire who was charged with state security offences and imprisoned, is being held in harsh conditions, according to the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). Amnesty International believes Basile Mahan Gahé is a possible prisoner of conscience, solely detained for his political views and because of his alleged links to former President Laurent Gbagbo's government.

On 3 July, **Basile Mahan Gahé** was charged with: committing state security offences; violating the sovereignty of the state; organizing armed groups; crimes committed against property of the state and financial institutions, public or private (*infractions contre l'autorité de l'Etat, atteinte à la souveraineté de l'Etat, constitution de bandes armées, infractions contre les biens commises au préjudice de l'Etat et des institutions financières publiques ou privées*). On 9 July, he was transferred to Boundiali civil prison in northern Côte d'Ivoire.

Basile Mahan Gahé is the Secretary General of *Confédération Dignité*, a trade union affiliated with the ITUC. He was arrested at his home in Abidjan on 26 April by members of the Republican Forces of Côte d'Ivoire (*Forces républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire, FRCI*) who searched and ransacked his house. He was detained without charge at a police station in Abidjan's Williamsville neighbourhood for two months. As reported in our previous Urgent Action, Amnesty International has received credible reports indicating that Basile Mahan Gahé has been subjected to torture, particularly during the first few days after his arrest, and that he may be in poor health.

None of the information available to Amnesty International suggests that Basile Mahan Gahé made any use of or incited violence and Amnesty International therefore believes he is a possible prisoner of conscience, solely detained for his political views and because of his alleged links to former President Laurent Gbagbo's government.

Please write immediately in French or your own language:

- Call for a prompt, independent and impartial investigation into Basile Mahan Gahé's alleged ill-treatment by security forces, for those responsible to be suspended and promptly brought to justice;
- Ensure he has access to a lawyer and adequate medical care and that his relatives are able to visit him.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 14 SEPTEMBER 2011 TO:

Minister of Justice
Me Jeannot Kouadio Ahoussou
Ministry of Justice
Abidjan
Côte d'Ivoire
Fax: +225 20 21 85 10
Salutation: Dear Minister/ Monsieur le Ministre

And copies to:
Minister of Interior
Hamed Bakayoko
Ministry of Interior
Abidjan
Côte d'Ivoire
Fax: +225 20 32 32 27
Salutation: Dear Minister/ Monsieur le Ministre

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 191/11. Further information:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR31/005/2011/en>

Name: Basile Mahan Gahé

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 191/11 Index: AFR 31/008/2011 Issue Date: 04 August 2011

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